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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT**6 NOVEMBER 2018**

(U) CALIFORNIA**(U) Menlo Park – Facebook Blocks 115 Accounts Ahead of US Midterm Elections**

(U) Facebook said it blocked 115 accounts for suspected "coordinated inauthentic behavior" linked to foreign groups attempting to interfere in today's US mid-term elections. The social media company shut down 30 Facebook accounts and 85 Instagram accounts and is investigating them in more detail, it said in a blog post yesterday. The company took action after being tipped off Sunday evening by US law enforcement officials, who notified the company about recently discovered online activity, "which they believe may be linked to foreign entities."

SOURCE: 6 November 2018, [SF Gate](#)

(U) NATIONAL**(U) District of Columbia – Russia Seen Adopting New Tactics in US Election Interference Efforts**

(U) Washington – Russian agents believed to be connected to the government have been active in spreading divisive content and promoting extreme themes ahead of today's US mid-term elections, but they are working hard to cover their tracks, according to government investigators, academics and security firms. Researchers studying the spread of disinformation on Facebook, Twitter, Reddit and other platforms say the new, subtler tactics have allowed most of the so-called information operations campaigns to survive purges by the big social media companies and avoid government scrutiny. The Russian government has rejected allegations of election interference.

SOURCE: 5 November 2018, [Reuters](#)

(U) New York – 'El Chapo' on Trial in New York

(U) Brooklyn – Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán, the man accused of having run the world's largest drug trafficking organization, is about to see his day in a US court. Jury selection began yesterday in Brooklyn, New York. Guzmán, already convicted of crimes in Mexico, stands accused in the US of leading a criminal enterprise, distributing cocaine and laundering the proceeds, among other alleged crimes. The 17-count indictment, which spans decades, alleges that Guzmán's cartel shipped tons of drugs from South America to the United States, and then illegally moved billions of dollars in profits to Mexico.

SOURCE: 5 November 2018, [NPR](#)

(U) Pennsylvania – Gab.com Back Up After Week Offline Following Pittsburgh Shooting

(U) Pittsburgh – Gab.com, the website where suspected Pittsburgh synagogue gunman Robert Bowers posted anti-Semitic views, said it was back up on Sunday evening after being offline for a week while it looked for another registrar to host its domain name. Domain name registrar and host Epik said it had agreed to host the site, w describing itself as "a social network that champions free speech, individual liberty and the flow of information online".

SOURCE: 4 November 2018, [Reuters](#)

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UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**(U) INTERNATIONAL****(U) Afghanistan – Taliban Attacks Government Post near Iran Border, Killing 20 Troops**

(U) Farah – Taliban militants attacked a border outpost in western Afghanistan today, killing 20 government soldiers in the latest assault likely to compound fears that the security forces are facing an unsustainable casualty toll. The insurgents assaulted the border post manned by about 50 Afghan government soldiers before dawn. At least 20 soldiers were known to have been killed, several wounded and the others were missing, said a senior military officer.

SOURCE: 6 November 2018, [Reuters](#)

(U) Cameroon – Separatists Blamed For Kidnapping 79 Children

(U) Bamenda – Cameroon’s president warned Anglophone separatists to lay down their arms or face the full force of the law, a day after dozens of schoolchildren were abducted in the rebel region. Clashes between a secessionist movement and the army began more than a year ago in west Cameroon, killing over 400 civilians and forcing thousands to flee their homes. Yesterday, unidentified assailants kidnapped 79 children, their principal and a driver from the PSS Nkwen school in Bamenda in Northwest region and took them into the bush outside town, military and government sources said.

SOURCE: 6 November 2018, [Reuters](#)

(U) France – Authorities Arrest Six People in Plan to Attack French President Macron

(U) Isere – Six people were arrested as part of a preliminary investigation into a suspected plan to attack French President Emmanuel Macron, an official close to the probe said. The six people were arrested on suspicion of undertaking an “imprecise and loosely-formed” plan for “violent action” against the president. French TV channel BFM TV reported that the six were members of the far-right, but that could not be independently confirmed.

SOURCE: 6 November 2018, [Reuters](#)

(U) Iraq – More Than 200 Mass Graves of ISIS Victims Discovered

(U) Ramadi – More than 200 mass graves have been uncovered in Iraq in areas formerly controlled by ISIS militants, the United Nations said today. The graves contain the remains of thousands of people, believed to be the victims of the hardline Sunni group, who between June and December 2014, overran large swathes of northern Iraq and declared it part of their so-called caliphate. The United Nations estimates between 6,000-12,000 bodies are contained in the 202 graves documented in the report. But exact numbers were difficult to establish.

SOURCE: 6 November 2018, [Reuters](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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